

October 12, 1958

Dr. Michael Potter
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Dr. Potter:

Dr. Nossal and I have been speculating about the possibility of applying the technique described in the enclosed reprint to the question of antibody formation by tumor cells. One naturally thinks of a plasma cell tumor of the type you have been working with, as described for example in J. Exp. Med., 108: 121, 1958. There are naturally good theoretical reasons not to expect such a tumor to produce any one variety of antibody, but we still feel experiments along these lines have to start somewhere.

I have heard, however, (possibly from Hilary Koprowski) that you may already have initiated some experiments along these lines, in particular to excluding certain antibodies from the characteristic myeloma globulin, but have not been able to find any reference on this point. I would be most grateful for the following favors: ① specific enlightenment on this question and on ② the possibility of a more deliberate technique for the production of such tumors, and finally ③ whatever reprints you can spare of your papers on these tumors.

May I mention that I would especially appreciate an early reply, so that I can have the benefit of this information in writing up a project that has to be submitted very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

POTTER